

June Minutes
INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTING
PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION MEETING

June 11, 2015 9 AM (EST)
Horseshoe Southern Indiana Hotel
Bossier City Room
11999 Casino Center Dr. SE
Elizabeth IN 47117
866-676-7463

- A Meeting called to order at 9am EST.

Present

Greg Wyant
Burke Jones
Rob Lund
James Greeson
Joe Romero
Tom Hanify
Eric Gentry
Chris Johnson
John Smith

Absent

Eric Drieman

- B. Rob Lund made a motion to approve the April minutes as submitted. Chris Johnson seconded. Motion passed.
- C Variance requests;

1. Rebecca Hershberger requested a variance for Instructor I. She currently holds a valid Primary Instructor, and has Firefighter I/II and several other Firefighter certifications.

Staff recommends approval providing she passes the Instructor reciprocity test.

Burke Jones made a motion to approve. Chris Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

2. John Saunders requested a variance for Firefighter I/II and Hazmat Awareness and Operations.

A staff member checked credentials with Australia, and believes the individual has more specialized training than is listed.

Staff recommends approval based upon the curriculum and information submitted.

Chris Johnson made a motion to approve. Joe Romero seconded. Motion passed.

3. Daniel Siek (Anderson Career Center) requested a variance from 655 IAC 1-1-12(e) to allow Blake Dietzer, Michael Pickett and Parker Rayne, whom currently are 16 years of age and juniors, to take the written examinations for [Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Hazardous Material Awareness, and Hazardous Materials Operations,] prior to taking the practical skills examinations, with the variance to be valid until their 19th birthday.

Staff recommends approval

James Greeson made a motion to approve. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed.

4. Daniel Siek (Anderson Career Center) requested a variance from 655 IAC 1-1-12(h) to allow the following students to take the practical skills examinations for [Firefighter I, Firefighter II, and Hazardous Materials Operations] at the age of 17 years and 1 week and have their passing score remain valid until their 18th birthday, with the variance to be valid until their 19th birthday:

Caleb Anders-Akers; Matthew Benzenbower; Collin Bilyeu; Tareah Clay; Blake Dietzer; Kody Eldridge; Cody Gilbert; Brycen Hansen; Ryan Hauser; Botson Morgan; Michel Pickett; Parker Rayne; and Logan Wehrly.

Staff recommends approval.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve. Chris Jonson seconded. Motion passed.

5. Travis Theurer requested a variance for Instructor II/III. He holds a valid Instructor I, is a state license teacher, and is the only member of SWAT team that is Medic and EMT. Mr. Theurer has explained and given examples of how during his duties with all the above, he meets the JPR's for Instructor II/III. He completes the needs assessment, budgets and high hazard training according to the requirements in the JPR's.

Staff recommends approval.

Burke Jones made a motion to approve. Eric Gentry seconded. Motion passed.

6. Troy Clements, Pike Township FD is respectfully requested a variance from 655 IAC 1-2.1-5.1 (Firefighter I/II) for Mark Raney. Due to the timing of his hiring, he will be joining a recruit school that has already completed the EMT portion, and will join for the Firefighter I/II portion. Upon successful completion of firefighter I/II, he will be directed to an EMT school. Upon successfully completing EMT school, he would then continue his employment with Pike Township Fire Department.

Specifically, Pike is requesting that Mark Raney be allowed to test for his Firefighter I/II and the certification be withheld pending his successful completion of EMT school. His Firefighter I/II would then be issued, with an effective date concurrent with his completion of EMT.

Hazmat Operations will also not be completed until after the EMT course. They are asking for the following students be allowed to test for FF ½ prior to having Hazmat ops, and certifications held until the class is completed.

Mark Raney; Noah Rincker; Jacob Fussell; Alex Knipp and Joseph Hale.

FF ½ testing is in August of 2015. Staff recommends denial.

After a discussion, Chief Clements pulled the request. There was no need for a variance.

7. Mathew Pride requested a variance for Investigator. He completed a FIT class at the Jasper Fire School; the class follows the NFPA 1033 standard and has completed all state skills as required.

Staff recommends denial. Matthew should take the state written exam.

The program at the Jasper Fire School does not cover the standard. Rob Lund made a motion to approve staff recommendation. John Smith seconded. Motion passed.

8. Russ McCurdy requested a variance for Investigator based on NFA course and completion of state skills.

Staff recommends approval. This program follows the standard and is a recognized facility.

Burke Jones made a motion to approve. Chris Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

D. James Greeson, State Fire Marshal report;

House Bill 1182, Fire and Public Safety Academy Training System was signed by the Governor. We have started work on this. Many things in place will not be affected. Fire certification and EMS, will not be changed. We will be adding Telecommunicator training; this will include fire and law enforcement. This is one of the early goals, and we will be meeting on how to implement this. This bill adds two more positions to this Board; a licensed paramedic to represent EMS and an EMA Director. The reason for this is that the Fire and Public Safety Training System is across the board training. The bill takes effect July 1st and I will be taking recommendations for these positions. The Governor will appoint these positions.

Coming up soon is fireworks season and the Fire Chief in the jurisdiction in the area that the display is happening, signs off on the display. This office will support their decision but the local Fire Chief has the final authority on approval in their area.

Amusement rides: the State Fire Marshal's office was not notified of the incident in Lafayette. I saw it on the news. If you respond to something like this, isolate the ride, notify the Fire Marshal's Office and make sure the ride is inspected prior to being put back in service.

I want to recognize Angie Biggs; she has been doing the webinars for about 2 years now and she is the new NIFRS person. She replaces Gary Robison. She is getting the new program, Image Trend, up and running. She has been working with the State Department of Health this week to move the EMS reporting over the Fire Marshal's Office on July 1st. I want to recognize her for all of her hard work. She works on the weekends and many evenings she is on the phone and e-mailing helping people with this new program.

I had a phone call from the Indiana Dept of Insurance about a Fire Dept. They had an ISO inspection and during this inspection the Fire Dept had little or no training records. The ISO rate went from a 6 to a 10. This means that every home owner in that district will have an increase to home owners insurance of about 400%. I am not saying this Dept did not train. They had no documentation showing their training. We are going to try to work with ISO and that town to see what we can do to help in this situation.

Chris Johnson (involved in the insurance business) the lack of documentation could cost the home owner \$400 to \$600 a year in that area. This was not done on purpose it just happened.

Angie Biggs stated that in the new Image Trend program, you can document the training in the new Image Trend program.

Steve Anderson stated that he had been talking with his Board on training documentation. Is it possible for next year to putt on training sessions on how to document training? John Buckman stated they had a completed webinar on how to document training. We are looking at bringing in the ISO for a 1 day seminar to tell us what to do and how to do it.

Fire Marshal talked about creating a committee for the line of duty deaths. This would not take anything away from groups already in place. This group would be there to offer assistance in any way that may be needed. Jack Kerney voiced concern that maybe to many committees' involved and overwhelming the families at a time that they did not need more help. The Marshal spoke about this not being another committee but combining resources with other groups and maybe streamlining things a little and speeding up some of the processing. There

was a group getting together to see if this was feasible and representatives from IVFA and other areas were on this committee to see if anything more was needed. The Alliance has asked for this so we are going to put a committee together to discuss this. Tom Hanify stated that this would not be another response, it would be more a common protocol, to create a check list to make sure that everything was covered and to get the Fire Marshal's Office involved.

Westfield High School had a stage collapse. The stage was meant to be a temporary structure and it was up much longer than they had anticipated. An employee of the school constructed this. No malice was intended. Just wanted to get this done and save money for the school. If something looks odd, say something. Call a code enforcement officer and have it checked as a precaution.

Dan Sink is involved, we are going to invite Eric Johnson, Jason Smith, and several others are going to be involved in enhancing the program.

E Joe Romero, Director of Training report;

I have reported about a partnership with Texas A&M and Louisiana State University to develop a process for training needs assessment (RTIP). We have finished our first round of pre meetings to introduce members from TEEXs and introduce the process. Another round of workshops will be starting in July in each district. There will be one workshop in each district. We will be able to build training needs assessment and work with you to develop the program for your district.

In the future we will be adding to this, for building needs, training needs and what are your objectives.

F. John Buckman, fire training report;
Would like to recognize Greg Wyant, our Chair, as the new fire chief of Noblesville FD.

1. On June 13th at 8am in the Las Vegas Room A (Second Floor) there will be a meeting for Instructors. This will count as continued education hours. This is to clear up rumor vs fact, to teach how to apply for courses, explain the most common issues with the rules, etc. These classes will be throughout the state the next year. These will be held in the rural areas, they will be posted in the new bulletin.

2. Brian Weaver, Instructor I variance status.

At the last Board meeting, Brian Weaver asked and received an Instructor I certification. A letter was written explaining that he did not have the prerequisites for this certification. After investigating Mr. Weaver credentials, staff determined that he did meet the prerequisite required for instructor I.

3. Instructor Reciprocity test, un-proctored. This is an open book test on 655 IAC rules. We believe that this test does not have to be proctored since it is open book. Chris Johnson made a motion to approve the Indiana Instructor Reciprocity test does not have to be proctored. All other rules will apply. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed.

4. Master certifications vs current certifications: if you hold a master certification, do you still qualify as lead instructor or lead evaluator for a current class. In the past, the Board has stated that the master categories were not equal to the current NFPA certifications.

Years ago, the Board determined that the old master certifications did not qualify as the current certifications. Staff is asking the Board for help in finding a way for these certifications to become updated or qualify today for lead instructor, and lead evaluators. We are not asking for a resolution to this today. We realize that this is a large issue and we are asking for input from everyone on how to do this.

Tom Hanify stated that without question, some of these people are qualified. How we know this is what we need to decide.

Chris Johnson asked why they could not be lead evaluator; answer, because if they have not kept up with the standard changes, then they are not aware that a skill is being completed wrong.

Burke Jones asked why they could not take a reciprocity test and transfer the cert to the newer standard.

Q- If you start messing with the master certification are you going to start messing with the first and second class?

A- The rules already acknowledge the 1st and 2nd class

You should be able to show proficiency in what you are doing and that should count.

Suggestions offered

a) Submit training records showing continued education

- b) Create crossover test like the old instructor crossover and have this available for a year for anyone that needs it
 - c) Attend an update course, possible for webinar for 1-2 hours
 - d) Get a committee together, part of training and part of those that this would affect, to come up with a solution
 - e) Individuals file for variance
5. Adam Hurley, Thorncreek Twp. VFD. Recruit training for individuals less than 18 years of age.
- Mr. Hurley was very cooperative when we explained what we needed in order to approve his variance. When I discussed liability issues with him he was shocked when it came to 16 and 17 year olds. He used the Auburn Training Center for his class, so we knew he would have access to the required props.

The South Bend FD was going to do training for individuals less than 18 years of age not affiliated with a career center.

This office does not give you permission. We give you advice that you need to take back to your attorney.

The US Dept of Labor states that the following are NOT allowed:

Driving a motor vehicle

Outside helper on motor vehicle

Doing fire prevention activities

Operating machinery

Roof operations

We are not telling you that you cannot train under 18 year olds, but there are 17 skills sheets I consider hazardous under the DOL definition.

Part of the solution is that you do not have to teach a FF ½ in the order of the book. Move the hazardous functions until the end of the class when most students are 18. You do not have to teach the book in order.

Non Rule policy statement:

This is from our June meeting in 2014 when we did an organizational meeting. We put some issues on paper so that we can stay consistent when variances come up. This is like the SOP for the Board. This adds consistency for the Board. Example: An Indiana teacher's license is equivalent to Instructor I providing you pass the Instructor reciprocity test.

This is a consistent ruling for the Board and this is what we want this document to portray. This will be cleaned up a little and submitted to the Board in August.

There is a question and answer page at the end of this agenda. We will be adding to this quarterly.

The most common question that we are getting is:

What does this Fire academy do for us?

Answer:

Legitimizes training.

G. Administrative proceedings;

No report at this time.

H Request for reciprocity;

No requests at this time.

I Old business;

No report at this time.

J. New business;

No report at this time.

K Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am

NEXT MEETING:

August 3rd 2015 6pm

Evansville FD

550 WE 8th St

Evansville IN 47714

812-435-6235